

Message Text

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ACTION HEW-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-02 OES-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SP-02 /025 W

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R 191212Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9966

LIMITED RFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 1140

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, TBIO, AR, US

SUBJ: PROPOSED DHEW/MOSW MOU FOR COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES

REF: A. STATE 226646; B. BA 7712; C. BA 8121

1. SUMMARY: DR. RAUL LEON OF THE PUBLIC HELTH SECRETARIAT, MIN OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MOSW) HAS PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH SOME COMMENTS ON DHEW DRAFT OF PROPOSED US-ARGENTINA MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES. LEON'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN IS WITH PROVIDING FOR SUITABLE MONITORING OF EXCHANGES BY GOA, THOUGH NOT TO POINT OF REQUIRING PRIOR APPROVAL IN ALL SUCH CASES. ACTION REQUESTS: DEPT AND DHEW REACTIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH MOSW. END SUMMARY.

2. DURNG RECENT CALL BY ST COUNSELOR ON DR. RAUL LEON ON ANOTHER MATTER, LEON INDICATED THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED FORMALLY FROM FONOFF US COUNTERPROPOSAL (REF A) AND SPANISH VERSION. (HE HAD PREVIOUSLY HAD AN "INFORMAL" COPY AT LEAST IN ENGLISH). DR. LEON WISHED TO CONVEY HIS PRINCIPAL REACTIONS.

3. THE DELETION OF RHEUMATISM FROM THE LIST OF CHRONIC DISEASES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EXCHANGE IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE MOSW.

4. DR. LEON MUCH PREFERS THE FORMAT OF THE AGREEMENT AS HE HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DRAFTED IT TO THAT OF ARTICLES I AND II OF THE DHEW DRAFT. HE

DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE REFERENCE TO THE 1957 TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WAS DROPPED, INASMUCH AS HE BELIVES IT TO STILL BE IN FORCE. (COMMENT: THERE IS NO COPY OF THIS AGREEMENT IN THE BA SCIENCE OFFICE FILES. A QUICK GLANCE AT LEON'S COPY SUGGESTS THAT IT MAY HAVE BEEN AID-RELATED. H WE THINK THAT LEON COULD BE PERSUADED TO DROP THE REFERENCE IF DHEW COULD PROVIDE THEIR REASONS FOR WISHING TO DROP IT.) LEON PREFERS THE OBJECTIVES (PART II OF HIS DRAFT) WHICH HE CONSIDERS MORE SPECIFIC THAN THE GENERAL STATEMENTS MADE IN ARTICLE II OF THE DHEW DRAFT. (COMMENT: THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF LEON'S DRAFT PART II NEEDS CONSIDERABLE IMPROVMENT, BUT OTHERWISE IT APPEARS TO THE EMBASSY THAT THIS POINT OF LEON'S IS VALID.)

5. LEON IS IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH ARTICLE III OF THE DHEW DRAFT, WITH TWO EXCEPTIONS: (A) THE CORRECT TITLE OF HIS OFFICE IS RELACIONES SANITARIAS INTERNACIONALES (INTERNATIONAL SANITARY RELATIONS); (B) HE OBJECTS TO THE 3RD SENTENCE OF PARA 3, "IN NEITHER CASE, HOWEVER, ARE THESE TWO UNITS TO IMPEDE OR PREVENT A DIRECT SCIENTIST TO SCIENTIST DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH OR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION." LEON INSISTS THAT THE GOA MUST BE KEPT INFORMED, PARTICULARLY IN RESEARCH, OF ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY OFFICIAL USG ORGANIZATIONS AND SCIENTISTS WITH ARGENTINE SCIENTISTS AND ORGANIZATIONS, IN ORDER TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF EFFORT, AVOID WASTE OF FUNDS, AND KEEP INFORMED. LEON CHARACTERIZED THIS LAST POINT AS HIS ONLY "IN DEPTH" DISAGREEMENT WITH THE DHEW DRAFT. HE INDICATED THAT THE MATTER COULD BE RESOLVED BY ADDING A PROVISOR TO THE SENTENCE IN QUESTION, TO CALL FOR NOTIFICATION (NOT PRIOR APPROVAL) OF THE GOA.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE REACTIONS OF DEPT AND DHEW TO LEON'S COMMENTS. EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO RESPOND TO FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS AND ATTEMPT TO IRON OUT REMAINING OBSTACLES TO AGREEMENT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH MOSW.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, HEALTH, INSTRUCTIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUENOS01140
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750059-0608
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750233/aaaabdfx.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION HEW
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 226646, 75 BA 7712, 75 BA 8121
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED DHEW/MOSW MOU FOR COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES
TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, TBIO, AR, US, HEW, (LEON, RAUL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006